

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9428

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 0940

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CD, SU

SUBJ: SUDANESE CHARGE'S ASSESSMENT OF CHADIAN COUP AND

SUDANESE/CHADIAN RELATIONS

REF: KHARTOUM 934 STATE 87874

1. SUDANESE CHARGE D'AFFAIRE A.I. MOHAMED AHMAD SIDDIK DISCUSSED
CHADIAN COUP AT LENGTH APRIL 18 WITH DCM. WHILE TOO EARLY PREDICT
POLICIES NEW GOVERNMENT, SIDDIK INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT COMPOSITION

SUPREME MILITARY COMMAND AND FOUR COMMISSIONS INDICATE GOVERNMENT
OF KNOWN QUANTITIES, DRAWN LARGEMLY FROM MEMBERS SMALL CHADIAN
ESTABLISHMENT NOT TOO CLOSELY CONNECTED PERSONALLY WITH FORMER
PRESIDENT.

SIDDIK'S MAIN POINT CURIOUSITY REGARDING COUP, WHICH HE SHARES WITH
OTHERS IN N'DJAMENA, IS QUESTION WHETHER FRENCH INVOLVED IN OR HAD
FOREKNOWLEDGE OF COUP. SIDDIK MAINTAINS HIS MIND NOT YET MADE UP BUT
WE CONSIDER HE WILL BE UNABLE RESIST TEMPTATION TO REACH CONCLUSION
FRENCH COMPLICITY.

2. ON QUESTION SUDANESE EXPULSION CHADIAN CITIZENS, SIDDIK SAID
THAT EXPULSIONS NOW OVER AND TOTAL AMOUNTED "ONLY" TO BETWEEN 800
AND 1,000 PERSONS, ALL OF WHOM, GOS DEMONSTRATED TO SATISFA-
TION OF GOC, WERE INVOLVED UNFRIENDLY ACTS TO GOS. SIDDIK MAIN-
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TAINS THAT QUESTION CLOSED, AND NOT LIKELY TO BE REOPENED BY NEW

CHADIAN REGIME. HE ALLEGED THERE ARE 2.5 MILLION "THESE PEOPLE" IN SUDAN, BY WHICH WE PRESUME HE MEANS FOREIGNERS FROM SEVERAL NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT: WE WOULD EXPECT SIDDIK'S REPORTING ON COUP THUS FAR TO BE REASONABLY FACTUAL (WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION QUESTION FRENCH ROLE), NON-ALARMIST, AND PERHAPS SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE TO SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL WITH AT LEAST ONE MEMBER (CAPT. ZAKARIA) OF WHICH HE WELL-ACQUAINTED.

SIDDIK HAS SPENT FOUR YEARS IN CHAD AND, ALTHOUGH HAMPERED BY NEARLY COMPLETE LACK FRENCH AND NATURAL PRO-ARAB BIAS, HE IS REASONABLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON BASICS. HE HAS BEEN NOTIFIED RE-ASSIGNMENT TO MFA KHARTOUM, BUT TRANSFER HAS BEEN DELAYED TEMPORARILY.

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